

REMARKS:

In an Office Action issued on April 20, 2005, the Examiner requested that the abstract be amended to be in compliance with the length requirement of MPEP § 608.01(b). Further, the Examiner objected to the contrast of Figures 6–18, 20– 17, and 29–33 and requested that corrected figures be submitted. The abstract has been amended to be in compliance with the length requirement of MPEP § 608.01(b). Further, a complete set of the originally submitted drawings redrawn to permit a proper contrast when scanned into the PAIR system are enclosed with each sheet labeled as a “Replacement Sheet” as set forth in C.F.R. § 1.121 (d). No new matter has been added by the amendment to the abstract or the set of drawings. Support for the amendments and replacement sheets can be found in the abstract and figures as filed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, replacement sheets, and Applicants’ previous response filed February 7, 2005, Applicants believe that all outstanding rejections and objections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1–108 and that the Examiner indicate the allowance of all pending claims in the next paper from the Office.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 713.787.1697 with any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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